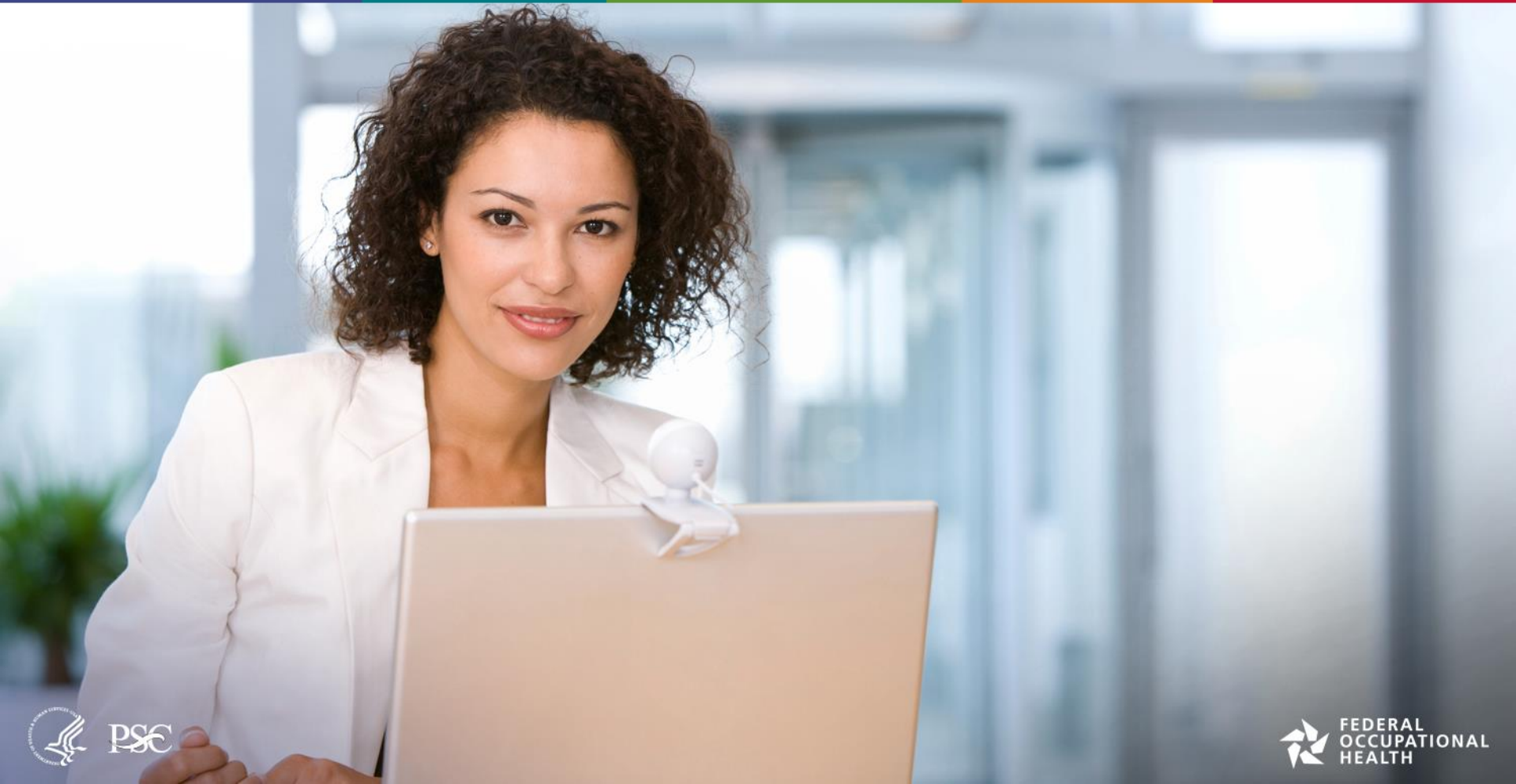


Hospice Care



Objectives

- Hospice philosophy
- Location of Care
- Hospice services
- Hospice team
- Is hospice right for you or your loved one?
- Paying for hospice care
- Finding a hospice program/facility

Hospice Philosophy

Hospice

- is a special kind of care designed to provide sensitivity and support for people in the final phase of a terminal illness

Hospice Care

- seeks to enable patients to carry on an alert, pain-free life and to manage other symptoms so that their last days may be spent with dignity and quality at home or in a home-like setting

Is Hospice Right for Your Loved One?

- Is your loved one's condition terminal?
- Is 24-hour care necessary now or in the near future? If so, can you arrange for such care?
- Has your loved one discussed hospice with his or her doctor and does the doctor think it is a viable option?
- Has your loved one received a physician's prognosis of six months or less to live?
- Is your loved one sure he or she wants to forego further surgery or treatment?
- Has your loved one and family members discussed the various care options?

Is Hospice Right for Your Loved One? (con't)

- If your loved one wants to remain at home, how will day-to-day care be managed?
- Is there a family member who can assume primary responsibility for your loved one if care is given at home? Are other friends and relatives willing to help?
- If you do not have a relative or close friend who can be the primary caregiver, would your loved one consider a hospice program within a hospice facility or nursing home?
- Will your loved one's insurance cover any of the costs of hospice care?

Types of Hospice Programs

- Home based
- Medical facility
- Independent hospice facility

Hospice Services

- Pain and symptom management
- Medications, medical supplies, and equipment
- Caregiving support and assistance
- Direct caregiving, as needed
- Therapy
- Counseling for patient and loved ones

Hospice Team

- Personal physician
- Hospice physician
- Nurses
- Home health aides or homemaker
- Social workers/mental health professionals
- Clergy or other spiritual counselors
- Trained volunteers
- Therapists (speech, physical, occupational, etc.)

Paying for Hospice Care

- Medicare
- Private insurance
- Medicaid
- Private pay

Medicare

Eligibility

- Eligible for Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance)
- Certification of terminal illness
- Signed statement choosing hospice care instead of other Medicare-covered benefits
- Medicare-approved hospice program

Cost

- 5% co-payment for respite care
- 5% co-payment prescription medications (not to exceed \$5)
- Room and board if residing in a skilled nursing facility

Medicare (con't)

Duration

- In 60 to 90 day increments for as long as illness lasts
- Hospice must re-certify every 60 or 90 days

Medicare Hospice Benefits

- One-time hospice consultation
- Doctor services
- Nursing care
- Medical equipment
- Medical supplies
- Drugs for symptom control or pain relief
- Home health aide/homemaker services
- Physical/occupational therapy
- Speech therapy
- Social worker services
- Dietary counseling
- Grief and loss counseling
- Short-term inpatient care
- Short-term respite care
- Other covered Medicare services as needed for pain and symptom management
- Covered benefits for health problems unrelated to terminal illness

Benefits Not Covered by Medicare

- Treatment or medications intended to cure the terminal illness
- Care not given or arranged by the hospice medical team
- Room and board
- Care in an emergency room or inpatient facility, or ambulance transportation

Medicaid

Optional benefit for Medicaid programs

Eligibility

- Eligible for Medicaid
- Diagnosis of terminal illness, with life expectancy of six months or less

Benefits

- Similar to Medicare

Communicating About Critical Issues

- Prepare loved ones
- Discuss financial issues and concerns
- Gather and/or execute all important legal and financial documents (i.e., wills, trusts, estate plans, powers of attorney, advance directives, etc.)
- Organize personal and medical information (i.e., emergency contacts, doctors' names, medications, etc.)
- Assess insurance coverage
- Consult appropriate professionals
- Determine if assistance will be needed in the future and who will provide
- Talk about preferences for funeral/memorial services

Coping When a Loved One Has a Terminal Illness

- Share responsibilities
- Seek support
- Resolve differences
- Share what is important

Resources

- WorkLife4You, Inc.
- National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization
- Hospice Association of America
- Hospice Education Institute
- Hospice Net
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Medicare Rights Center

Let WorkLife4You Make Your Life a Little Easier!

Contact WorkLife4You 24/7:

1-877-WL4-NOAA (1-877-954-6622)
(TTY 800-873-1322)

<http://www.worklife4you.com>

- Look for the Member Login box
- Not a registered member yet? Follow the “**Start Now**” link and enter Registration Code: **noaa**



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